

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04

RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 DODE-00

FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 L-03 CAB-09 DOTE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

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TAGS: EGEN, ETRN, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: TDB DISCUSSION OF INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING

REF: GENEVA 2265

1. SUMMARY. CONSIDERATION IN PLENARY OF RESUMED TWELFTH SESSION OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (XII) ON UNCTAD ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORK ON CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORT

WAS BRIEF. ON OTHER HAND, NEGOTIATION OF AGREED DECISION (TEXT SEPTTEL) TURNED OUT BE DIFFICULT AND TIME CONSUMING BECAUSE OF DISPUTE OVER SIZE OF PREP GROUP AND ROLE OF TDB. PREP GROUP OF 67 WITH APPROPRIATE GROUPB REPRESENTATION TO MEET OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 2. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING LEFT FLEXIBLE.

2. LDCA HAD VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO SAY IN PLENARY ON SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR WORK ON PRELIMINARY DRAFT CONVENTION ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORT (AGENDA ITEM 10(E)). ONLY SPEAKER WAS PAKISTAN WHICH SUPPORTED SECRETARIAT PROGRAM SUMMARIZED IN TD/ B/ L 314. GROUP B (DEVELOPED) COUNTRIES MADE STATEMENT ACCEPTING OCTOBER 29- NOVEMBER 2 DATE FOR FIRST MEETING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY GROUP (IGPG). COORDINATOR HOWEVER STATED: (1) DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS IN IGPG SHOULD FOLLOW USUAL UNCTAD PATTERN; (2) MEETING OF PREPGROUP SHOULD BE SPREAD OUT MORE TO ALLOW TIME FOR BETTER PREPARATION; (3) SG SHOULD HAVE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS BECAUSE OF HEAVY BURDEN PLACED ON SOME DELS IN STAFFING LARGE NUMBER OF SHIPPING MEETINGS AT END OF YEAR; AND (4) ACCEPTANCE OF SECRETARIAT PROGRAM WITH ITS CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS DID NOT IMPLY COMMITMENT TO NET INCREASE IN UNCTAD BUDGET. USSR ALSO OBJECTED TO HIGH COST OF PROGRAM. ONLY OTHER INTERVENTION WAS STATEMENT BY IMCO NOTING ITS EXPERIENCE IN AREA OF INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AND OFFERING ITS ASSISTANCE.

3. AGREEMENT ON TDB DECISION TO IMPLEMENT ECOSOC RESOLUTION OBTAINED ONLY AFTER TEDIOUS AND LENGTHY INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH LDCS. USDEL SUCCEEDED IN ELIMINATING SPECIFIC DATES FOR SECOND AND THIRD SESSIONS OF IGPG AND INSERTED LANGUAGE TO GIVE FIRST SESSION A SAY IN TIMING OF FUTURE SESSIONS. NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, GOT BOGGED ON SIZE OF IGPG AND ROLE OF TDB IN CONSIDERING CONCLUSIONS OF IGPG.

4. LDCS WERE PREPARED TO ABANDON FORMULA FOR GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION AGREED IN ECOSOC IN ORDER TO GIVE GROUP B MORE SEATS BUT ONLY IF SIZE OF IGPG INCREASED. NEGOTIATIONS WERE COMPLICATED BY INSISTANCE (1) OF AFRICANS THAT THEY MUST KEEP PROPORTION OF SEATS THEY HAVE IN CURRENT TDB AND (2) OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES THAT THEY MUST HAVE EXTRA SEAT SINCE THEY NOW HAD NEW MEMBER (EAST GERMANY). WHILE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC OVER HAVING TOO LARGE A BODY, GROUP B CONCLUDED THAT FORMULAS FOR 68 MEMBER TDB WAS ONLY COMPROMISE THAT WOULD MEET DEMANDS OF ALL GROUPS AND NOT SET BAD PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE (NOTABLY BY UPSETTING EXISTING PROPORTION BETWEEN GROUPS B AND D). ASIAN PROPOSAL FOR IGPG OF 67 PLUS CHINA IF IT DECIDES TO PARTICIPATE WAS THEREFORE ACCEPTED.

5. WITH RESPECT TO ROLE OF TDB, OLD UNCTAD HANDS IN GROUP 77 OBJECTED TO TEXT OF RESOLUTION NEGOTIATED BY THEIR FELLOW LDCS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN ECOSOC BECAUSE APPROPRIATE ROLE NOT SPECIFIED FOR UNCTAD GOVERNING BODY. INITIAL ASIAN PROPOSAL SUGGESTED TDB MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO GA WHETHER CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD IN 1975. THIS OPPOSED BY CANADA WHICH NOW SEEMS BE ONLY WESTERN COUNTRY WHICH FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT TRYING TO KEEP TO TIMETABLE OF ECOSOC RESOLUTION. UK, WHICH PREVIOUSLY INSISTED ON STRICT TIMETABLE,

SAID INFORMALLY THAT VIEW IN LONDON IS THAT IT IMPOSSIBLE GET UNCTAD CONCENTRATE ON NARROWER SUBJECT OF LEGAL AND DOCUMENTARY REGIME AND THEREFORE UK WOULD JUST AS SOON SEE BROADER SUBJECT OF CONVENTION ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORT WALLOW INDEFINITELY IN SEA OF ENDLESS DEBATE. AFTER MUCH TO- ING AND FRO- ING, COMPROMISE REACHED WHICH GIVES ROLE TO TDB BUT ALSO REFERS TO MANDATE IN ECOSOC RES 1734 (LIV).

6. AS PART OF COMPLEX PACKAGE AGREEMENT, UNCTAD SG MADE STATEMENT IN PLENARY THAT HE WILL HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON NUMBER OF MEETINGS IN FIELD OF SHIPPING SCHEDULED FOR END OF 1973. SG AWARE THAT UK AND SOME OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WANT POSTPONE OCTOBER MEETING OF SHIPPING COMMITTEE. WHILE WILLING TO CONSULT, HE INDICATED INFORMALLY THAT HE NOT OPTIMISTIC ON POSSIBILITIES OF POSTPONEMENT. IN ORDER MAINTAIN GROUPS B SOLIDARITY ON OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US USDEL DID NOT OPPOSE CONSULTATIONS BUT MADE IT CLEAR TO KEY GROUP B COUNTRIES THAT U. S. AGREEMENT WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO DECISION WE WOULD TAKE ON QUESTION OF MEETING OF SHIPPING COMMITTEE. BASSIN

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